LPT/HPT in Hilly States

792. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for setting up of L.P.Ts. and H.P.Ts. during the year 1998-99 and the number of LPTs/HPTs to be installed in Hilly States of the country;

(b) the number of LPTs and HPTs lying out of order in the country since the last 2 months, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which those Transmitters are likely to be repaired and the expected amount to be incurred on these repairs?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) 362 TV transmitters of varying powers, including 126 transmitter in Hilly areas, are at present, under implementation. Out of these, 79 transmitters have already been completed, including 26 in Hilly areas. 9 HPTs including 2 HPTs in Hilly states are targetted for completion during 1998-99.

(b) and (c) VLPTs at Kalkatang in Arunachal Pradesh, Saiha in Mizoram, Moreh in Manipur, Basot in Uttar Pradesh, Transposer Churk in Uttar Pradesh have been damaged/out of order. Steps for repairing these has already been taken up.

VLPT Jahalma, VLPT Bhasmur in Himachal Pradesh and VLPT Kilhotran in Jammu and Kashmir are also out of order and will be repaired when the approach road to these areas are open.

Repairing and maintenance of transmitters is a regular process. All efforts are being made to set them right at the earliest. The amount to be incurred on repairs can not be predicted in advance.

PCOs Commissioned by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.

793. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of public call offices (PCOs) in different areas of the capital commissioned by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. and the criteria adopted in the allotment of such PCOs;

(b) whether there are complaints of violation of the terms and conditions by the PCO owners such as overcharging, installation of three minute disconnecters etc.; and

(c) if so, the number of such complaints received during the last three years and the action taken by the Government against the errant PCO owners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) The number of Public Call Offices working in different areas of the capital, Delhi are as under :

Area	STD/ISD/PCOs	Local PCOs.
Central	356	1904
East	1136	3448
Trans-Yamuna	1578	4065
North	1444	4104
South-I	619	1152
South-II	1240	1935
West-I	1502	4877
West-II	882	4274

STD/ISD PCO booths are allotted to educated unemployed persons subject to technical feasibility and the candidates fulfilling other conditions. Educational qualification is 8th pass for rural and Metric/High School Pass for Urban areas. Local PCOs are allotted subject to technical feasibility and suitability in each case.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir, 593 cases of violation of terms and conditions by the PCO owners were received during the last three years. Out of these, 280 PCOs have been disconnected. For 144 cases warning has been issued and the remaining cases are under process at different stages.

[Translation]

Speed Post Facility

794. SHRI PRABHAS CHANDRA TIWARI :
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS/be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices in the country where speed post facility is available, city-wise/town-wise; and

(b) the time by which this facility is likely to be made available in the remaining post offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) Speed Post is not a normal Post Office counter facility. It is a business venture of the Department and this service has been set up in some selected cities and towns in the country. There are at present 76 such cities/towns in the country where this service has been established. For the purpose of booking of Speed Post articles not all but a few strategically located Post Offices are identified for the work.

(b) Speed Post service in other cities/towns will be extended based on business considerations as a continuous activity of the Department.